

Mr. Fred L. Myles
350671-Connally
899 FM 632
Kenedy, Texas 78119

Dear Mr. Myles:

Your letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), dated March 23rd, 2008, was forwarded to me in the EPA Region 6 office on April 10th for investigation and response. In your letter you indicated that the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Connally Unit Prison drinking water is unsafe. You stated that practices within the Connally Unit create unhygienic drinking water conditions for inmates from internal sources including sinks, water storage trash-cans, and a water-recycle-system. You additionally alleged Connally Unit employee fraud and/or abuse involving TDCJ food and drinks. Within this response I have provided information to assist you in your inquiry.

Texas Prison System Investigation

The Texas Office of Inspector General (OIG) has the authority to investigate misconduct and criminal violation allegations occurring on TDCJ property including the Connally Unit. You may initiate an OIG inquiry by calling 1-866-372-8329 or writing to the below address:

Office of Inspector General
Investigations Department
2503 Lake Rd. Suite 5
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 437-5030
Fax (936) 437-5138

Texas Drinking Water Investigation

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has primary enforcement authority for implementing the national drinking water regulations in the State of Texas. TCEQ routinely monitors public water systems for drinking water regulation compliance. You may request further information or request an investigation about your Connally Unit drinking water by contacting your TCEQ district inspector at 210-490-3096 or by writing to the address below:

Mr. Tom Haberle
Water Section Manager
TCEQ Region 13 – San Antonio
14250 Judson Road
San Antonio Texas 78233-4480

Connally Unit Drinking Water

The EPA establishes minimum drinking water standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The EPA Region 6 office investigated your inquiry with respect to these standards. We searched the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS), EPA's national drinking water database of record, for inventory information, SDWA violations, and reported sampling data. The Connally Unit obtains its drinking water from the City of Kenedy Water System (PWS ID# 1280002). The resulting SDWIS Report is enclosed. The report indicates that the City of Kenedy Water System incurred annual-average arsenic maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations from 10/1/2006 to 9/30/2007.

Arsenic in Drinking Water

EPA set the drinking water arsenic standard at 0.010 parts per million (10 parts per billion) to protect consumers served by public water systems from the effects of long-term, chronic exposure to arsenic. Water systems must have complied with this standard by January 23, 2006.

EPA staff contacted The City of Kenedy Water System manager, Mr. Ray Borroum, who confirmed that your ground water system draws its water from the Gulf Coast Aquifer. Mr. Borroum also confirmed that your water source tends to have arsenic levels, from natural leaching of arsenic in rocks, above EPA standards. Mr. Borroum noted that the new City of Kennedy Water System arsenic treatment initiated in May, 2007 includes arsenic adsorption media, source water blending, and reverse osmosis. SDWIS data verifies that the City of Kennedy Water System has been drinking water compliant with the SDWA, including the arsenic standard, since September 30, 2007.

I hope this information is helpful. If you need further assistance on this matter or have any questions, please contact Damon McElroy at 214-665-7159.

Sincerely,

/s/ Larry D. Wright

Larry D. Wright, Chief
Source Water Protection Branch

Enclosure

City of Kenedy Water System SDWIS Report:

System Name:	City of Kenedy						
PWS Type:	Community Water System						
Service Connection:	2,382						
Population Served:	8,523						
Source Type:	Ground Water						
Facility Information:	FacTypeCode	Facility ID	FacName				
	Well	G1280002H	11-FM 743				
	Well	G1280002J	13-FM 743				
	Well	G1280002E	8-COTTON WOOD				
	Well	G1280002G	10-WOOD STREET				
	Treatment Plant	TP8536	COTTONWOOD ST				
	Well	G1280002K	14 - FM 743				
	Distribution System	DS01	DISTRIBUTION				
Violations	Analyte	Violation	Begin	End	Measure, Mg/L	Enforcement	
						Action	Date Issued
	Consumer Confidence Rule	CCR Complete Failure to Report	1-Jul-05	31-Dec-25			
	Arsenic	MCL, Average	1-Oct-06	31-Dec-06	0.013	Formal Notice of Violation, NOV	2/28/2007
	Arsenic	MCL, Average	1-Jan-07	31-Mar-07	0.017675	Public Notification (PN)Received	8/8/2007
	Arsenic	MCL, Average	1-Apr-07	30-Jun-07	0.018215		
Lead 90th Percentiles	Lead (action level =0.015 mg/l)						
	Monitoring Period	Measure, Mg/L					
	1/1/05 thru 12/31/07	0.0021					
	1/1/99 thru 12/31/01	0.0019					
	01/01/96 thru 12/31/98	0.0022					